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SUBJ: THREE POLITICAL STATEMENTS ISSUED

1. SUMMARY: RECENT STATEMENTS BY GIRON, GARCIA REBULL, AND UTRERA HAVE AROUSED SUBSTANTIAL CONTROVERSY. END SUMMARY.

2. THREE STATEMENTS BY PROMINENT POLITICAL PERSONAGES, ALL OF WHICH WERE ISSUED ON APRIL 28 HAVE GENERATED CONSIDERABLE CONTROVERSY AND PRESS COMMENT. THESE WERE: (1) A SO-CALLED "POLITICAL DECLARATION" BY OLD STYLE FALANGIST AND ONE-TIME LABOR MINISTER JOSE ANTONIO GIRON WHICH APPEARED IN THE MOVIMIENTO DAILY "ARRIBA"; (2) AN INTERVIEW IN "NUEVO DIARIO" GIVEN BY RETIRED CONSERVATIVE GENERAL TOMAS GARCIA REBULL; AND (3) A SPEECH GIVEN BY MOVIMIENTO MINISTER UTRERA MOLINA BEFORE SOME 10,000 FALANGISTS IN THE ALCUBIERRE MOUNTAIN RANGE IN ARAGON COMMEMORATING THE 60 FALANGIST YOUTHS MASSACRED THERE DURING THE CIVIL WAR.

3. GIRON'S DECLARATION STRONGLY ATTACKED "FALSE LIBERALS" AND THOSE WHO INFILTRATE THE REGIME TO UNDERMINE. IT ASSERTED THAT SPAIN IS LIVING THROUGH DIFFICULT TIMES BUT THAT IT WOULD NOT BE DEFEATED BY CONFUSION; ALLEGED THAT THINGS HAVE REACHED SUCH A SAD STATE THAT NEWSSTANDS ARE AUTHORIZED TO SELL
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FOREIGN PUBLICATIONS WHICH RIDICULE THE CHIEF OF STATE AND

OFFEND THE REGIME; CRITICIZED THE LIBERALS WITHIN THE ADMINISTRATION WHO ALLOW MARXIST IDEAS TO CIRCULATE FREELY THEREIN, CONDEMNED EFFORTS WHICH HE CLAIMED WERE UNDER WAY TO DISMANTLE THE SPANISH SYNDICAL SYSTEM; AND STATED THAT THE PRESENT PRESIDENT OF GOVERNMENT AND MINISTER OF THE MOVIMIENTO SHOULD NOT BE PERMITTED TO BECOME "SURROUNDED" (PRESUMABLY BY UNSPECIFIED INTERNAL ENEMIES OF THE REGIME).

3. IN GARCIA REBULL'S INTERVIEW, THE GENERAL STATED THAT HE WAS TOTALLY AGAINST POLITICAL ASSOCIATIONS WHICH WOULD, HE CLAIMED, LEAD INEVITABLY TO THE ODIOS POLITICAL PARTIES, AND HE ADDED, THAT HE WOULD VOTE AGAINST MOVES TOWARDS POLITICAL ASSOCIATIONISM IN THE CORTES. HE ALSO STATED HE HAD VERY LITTLE FAITH IN THE CORTES (TO WHICH HE BELONGS BY VIRTUE OF HIS POSITION AS A NATIONAL COUNCILOR OF THE MOVEMENT FROM TARRAGONA), AND CLAIMED HE WAS PROUD TO HAVE APPROVED THE DEATH SENTENCE IN THE 1970 BURGOS TRIAL (HE WAS THEN CAPTAIN GENERAL OF THE BURGOS REGION) WHICH HE BELIEVED WAS WHAT THAT POLITICAL MOMENT HAD REQUIRED.

4. MINISTER UTRERA, IN HIS SPEECH AT ALCUBIERRE SPOKE OF THE NECESSITY OF DEFENDING THE NATIONAL MOVEMENT AGAINST NEW ALCUBIERRES, BUT STRESSED THAT THE MOVEMENT COULD NOT ENCLOSE ITSELF IN A DEFENSIVE BUNKER. HE ADDED THAT AN OPENING OR "APERTURA" WAS THE BASIS FOR THE SPANISH SYSTEM AND THAT THE MOVEMENT HAD SET ITSELF THE TASK OF PROMOTING POLITICAL DEVELOPMENT AND PARTICIPATION. HE SIMULTANEOUSLY CRITICIZED BOTH THOSE WHO WISH TO REMAIN IMMOBILE AS WELL AS THOSE WHO SEEK TO USE ANY OPENING OF THE SYSTEM TO MALICIOUSLY ALTER THE REGIME'S BASIC FOUNDATIONS.

5. COMMENT. THE THREE STATEMENTS REFLECT DIFFERENT POLITICAL POINTS OF VIEW WITH GARCIA REBULL'S COMPLETELY IN KEEPING WITH HIS WELL KNOWN ULTRA RIGHTIST VIEWS, AND WITH UTRERA'S REFLECTING HIS CHARACTERISTIC MODERATELY APERTURISTA LINE. THE MOST SIGNIFICANT AND SURPRISING OF THE THREE STATEMENTS IS THAT OF VETERAN FALANGIST GIRON WHO, IN RECENT YEARS, HAD BEEN GIVEN TO MAKING APERTURISTA STATEMENTS BUT WHOSE CURRENT STATEMENT APPEARS TO CONSTITUTE A REPUDIATION OF, AND STERN WARNING TO, REGIME LIBERALIZERS.

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6. INFORMED OBSERVERS CONSIDER THAT GARCIA REBULL'S INTERVIEW AND UTRERA MOLINA'S SPEECH MERELY COINCIDED AND WERE NOT INTENDED TO APPEAR ON THE SAME DATE. IN THE CASE OF GIRON'S STATEMENT, HOWEVER, IT IS WIDELY BELIEVED THAT HE DELIBERATELY CHOSE THE DATE OF UTRERA MOLINA'S SOMEWHAT LIBERAL SPEECH TO ISSUE HIS REACTIONARY BLAST. IT IS REPORTED THAT UTRERA DID NOT KNOW ABOUT GIRON'S STATEMENT IN ADVANCE AND WAS FURIOUS WHEN

HE HEARD IT, ALL THE MORE BECAUSE IT WAS ISSUED IN THE NATIONAL MOVEMENT'S OWN NEWSPAPER "ARRIBA".

7. GIRON'S STATEMENT CAN BE REGARDED AS AN ATTACK ON THE NEW GOVERNMENT'S PROMISES OF LIBERALIZATION, ON MEMBERS OF THE CABINET OF PRESIDENT ARIAS, AND POSSIBLY UPON PRESIDENT ARIAS HIMSELF. TWO CABINET MINISTERS IN PARTICULAR ARE SINGLED OUT FOR ATTACK BY GIRON I.E. INFORMATION MINISTER PIO CABANILLAS, WHO IS OF COURSE THE PERSON RESPONSIBLE FOR THE AUTHORIZATION OF THE SALE OF FOREIGN PUBLICATIONS ON NEWS- STANDS (MANY REGARD GIRON'S STATEMENT AS A REBUTTAL OF AN APRIL 21 SPEECH BY PIO CABANILLAS IN BARCELONA IN WHICH THE INFORMATION MINISTER HAD EMPHASIZED HIS LIBERAL APPROACH TO INFORMATION POLICY, AND HAD ANNOUNCED A "NEW FRONTIER FOR CULTURE" AND A NEW STAGE OF TOLERANCE), AND SYNDICAL MINISTER FERNANDEZ SORDO WHO IS THE LOGICAL OBJECT OF GIRON'S ALLEGATIONS OF EFFORTS TO DISMANTLE THE SPANISH SYNDICAL SYSTEM AND WHO IN THE FOUR MONTHS SINCE HE BECAME MINISTER HAS REPEATEDLY CLAIMED HE FAVORS LIBERALIZATION OF THE SYNDICAL STRUCTURE.

8. THERE IS MUCH SPECULATION AS TO WHAT MOTIVATED GIRON WHO, ALTHOUGH HE IS A FIGURE FROM THE FALANGIST PAST, STILL COMMANDS A SUBSTANTIAL FOLLOWING IN CERTAIN "OLD GUARD" REGIME CIRCLES, TO ISSUE SUCH A CONTROVERSIAL AND HIGHLY CRITICAL BLAST AT THE CURRENT GOVERNMENT. ONE HIGHLY INFORMED SOURCE ASSERTS THAT NO MINISTER IN THE GOVERNMENT KNEW OF THE STATEMENT BEFORE IT WAS ISSUED. ONE RUMORED THEORY IS THAT GIRON'S STATEMENT WAS GIVEN WITH THE CONNIVANCE OF FRANCO HIMSELF, OR AT LEAST WITH THE CONNIVANCE OF SOME OF THOSE IN FRANCO'S IMMEDIATE ENTOURAGE, INCLUDING POSSIBLY HIS WIFE, AND THAT IT WAS DESIGNED AS AN INDIRECT PUBLIC WARNING TO REIGN IN THE NEW GOVERNMENT WITH ITS LIBERAL POLICIES.

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9. WHAT DOES APPEAR CERTAIN IS THAT GIRON'S STATEMENT HAS PRECIPITATED A MINOR CLIMATE OF CRISIS WITHIN THE GOVERNMENT, WHICH WAS ALREADY REPORTEDLY NERVOUS ENOUGH BECAUSE OF THE CURRENT UNSETTLING EVENTS IN NEIGHBORING PORTUGAL. MOST UPSET HAS BEEN MOVIMIENTO MINISTER UTRERA, WHOM GIRON PATRONIZINGLY SINGLED OUT FOR A WARNING NOT TO ALLOW HIMSELF TO BECOME "SURROUNDED". UTRERA'S ANGER NOT ONLY STEMS FROM THE FACT THAT HIS OWN ALCUBIERRE SPEECH WAS UNDERMINED BY GIRON'S STATEMENT THE SAME DAY (SOME INTERPRET GIRON'S STATEMENT AS A DIRECT REBUKE TO UTRERA FOR HIS SPEECH), BUT ALSO BECAUSE GIRON'S SPEECH APPEARED IN AND MONOPOLIZED THE COVERAGE THAT DAY IN "ARRIBA", THE MOVIMIENTO'S OWN NEWSPAPER. ADDING TO UTRERA'S CHAGRIN WAS THE FACT THAT FOUR MONTHS AGO, IN A POLITICAL DEAL, HE PLACED SEVERAL OF GIRON'S FOLLOWERS IN KEY POSITIONS IN THE MOVIMIENTO, AMONG WHOM WAS

PRINCIPAL GIRON LIEUTENANT ANTONIO IZQUIERDO WHO WAS NAMED THE DIRECTOR OF "ARRIVA". UTRERA IS REPORTEDLY AT PRESENT DEMANDING THE RESIGNATION OF ANTONIO IZQUIERDO FOR HAVING PUBLISHED GIRON'S STATEMENT WITHOUT CLEARING IT WITH UTRERA FIRST.

10. THE THREE APRIL 28 STATEMENTS, AND PARTICULARLY GIRON'S, ARE LIKELY TO HAVE CONTINUING REPERCUSSIONS AND THE MATTER CANNOT BY ANY MEANS BE CONSIDERED CLOSED.
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